

Claims

1 A method for the detection of an antigen, the antigen being in a combination with aluminium hydroxide, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting the antigen with an immunoglobulin, or fragment thereof, in the context of a solid support and in the presence of a basic buffer, to allow binding of the antigen to immunoglobulin or fragment thereof;

(ii) adding a blocking agent; and

(iii) detecting the binding of antibody to the antigen,

wherein steps 1, 2 and 3 are carried out sequentially but not necessarily consecutively.

2 A method according to claim 1 wherein the antigen is hepatitis B surface antigen.

3 A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein step (i) is carried out with agitation.

4 A method according to any preceding claim wherein the detection step (iii) is carried out in the presence of 0.2 % BSA.

5 A method according to any preceding claim comprising the following steps:

(i) contacting an antibody specific for hepatitis B surface antigen with a sample to be tested, the antibody being bound to a solid support, the contacting being carried out in the presence of a basic buffer, with agitation, to allow binding of the antigen to the antibody, wherein the buffer has a pH of 9 or approximately pH 9;

(ii) adding a blocking agent comprising 1% BSA or approximately 1% BSA; and

(iii) detecting the binding of antibody to antigen in the presence of 0.2% BSA.

6 A kit for the detection of an antigen, the antigen being in the presence of aluminium hydroxide, the kit comprising instructions for implementing the method of

claims 1-5 and at least one component selected from: an antibody specific for the antigen and a basic buffer.

7 A kit according to claim 6 comprising instructions for implementing the method of any of claims 1 to 4, an antibody specific for the antigen and a basic buffer.

8 A method or kit according to any of claims 1-7, wherein the basic buffer is pH9 or substantially pH 9.